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The Holy Night

Being a Masque to be performed by
Young Children at Christmas-tide
Written by FLORENCE CONVERSE
Music by Rev. A. G. BISDEE

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Staff Notation Edition

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NOTE.

The simple music which is now published was arranged two years ago for some performances of *The Holy Night*, given with some Bethlehem tableaux, in this parish. A certain amount of incidental music seemed to be required, in addition to the songs, and in putting it together I aimed at using familiar airs and carol tunes, etc.; the music therefore does not lay claim to much originality, as, indeed, will be apparent. If it has in any way caught the spirit of simple reverence which breathes through Miss Converse's beautiful little Masque I am more than satisfied.

It will be found to be a great gain if an organ and violin are available, in addition to the piano; parts for these instruments can be hired from the publishers.

A. G. B.

St. Matthew's, Westminster.

September, 1914.

P.S.—It was the direction of the Author that "this shall be the music of *The Shepherd's Song*—the old tune, 'O sons and daughters, let us sing.'"

Persons of the Masque.

MARY—*She shall be a little maiden, fair-haired, and her gown shall be white, covered over with a long hooded cloak, sky blue. The hood she weareth about her face.*

JOSEPH—*He is a sturdy lad in a rough gown, long and brown. In his hand he holdeth a carpenter's wooden mallet ; at his girdle do hang three iron nails, very large.* JOSEPH *hath a grizzled head, which may be powdered.*

THE HOLY CHILD—*This may be a little figure of wax or porcelain, fashioned very delicately.*

THE THREE SHEPHERDS—*They be three little lads, wearing short gowns of a light tanned colour, and mantles of sheeps' skins ; but if these be not convenient, they may wear cloaks of cotton-flannel, unbleached. And they must carry shepherds' crooks.*

THE THREE WISE MEN—*These shall be three boys of divers age. The one which is* MELCHIOR *shall be fourteen years of age, or thereabout. He shall go bent, on a staff, with a beard flowing as far as to his waistband, and yet farther. This beard shall be white cotton, and tied about his chin. In his hand he beareth a crown of bright gold, or that appeareth like gold, which he shall give to* THE HOLY CHILD.

The other king, which is CASPAR, *shall be of a swarthy countenance, or even a young negro, if such an one be at hand. Ten years of age shall he be ; and walking he swingeth a censer.*

Now BALTHASAR *is the most youngest of these three kings. He is a little lad of eight years. In his hand he lifteth up the box of ointment. And all they three be turbaned as to their heads, and richly clad in long robes, and girded with a sash.*

THE ANGELS—*All the little girls and young maidens shall be* Angels. *Their robes are white, long, and there are no sleeves ; and crosswise on the breast be two bands of braided gold, narrow, and underneath a girdle of a third narrow band, a high girdle. These* Angels' *wings shall be tall, pointed, and white, or else golden.*

THE COCK—*He weareth a yellow vest, made to be rounded out with a little pillow beneath. A red coat he weareth, and the sleeves of this be cut and sewn after such a fashion that when he flappeth his arms these make a semblance of wings. And a green tail he weareth, which is made with many strips of cambric curved by wires and caught in a clustering knot. He hath a black cap, and on the top of this there standeth upright a cock's comb, bright red. Over his nose he weareth a sharp beak, but his mouth remaineth uncovered, that he may speak the more easily. Yellow are his stockings, and his shoes cut in three points on the toe. But at his heels there is a long spur. And if any little boy have very fat legs he shall not play the part of the cock.*

THE RAVEN—*This is a black bird. His tail standeth out stiff behind him. His beak is very long. His wings he must spread very wide when he will. Let him have black hair.*

THE LAMB—*He lieth on the ground beside the* Shepherds. *He weareth a sheep's skin, or a white coat, and a little tail that he may frisk by a string what time he bleateth.*

THE OX AND THE ASS—*These two be only heads of pasteboard, which do lean out of window. It needs but one boy that shall speak for them twain, and nod the head of the* Ox *and wag the* Ass *his ears.*

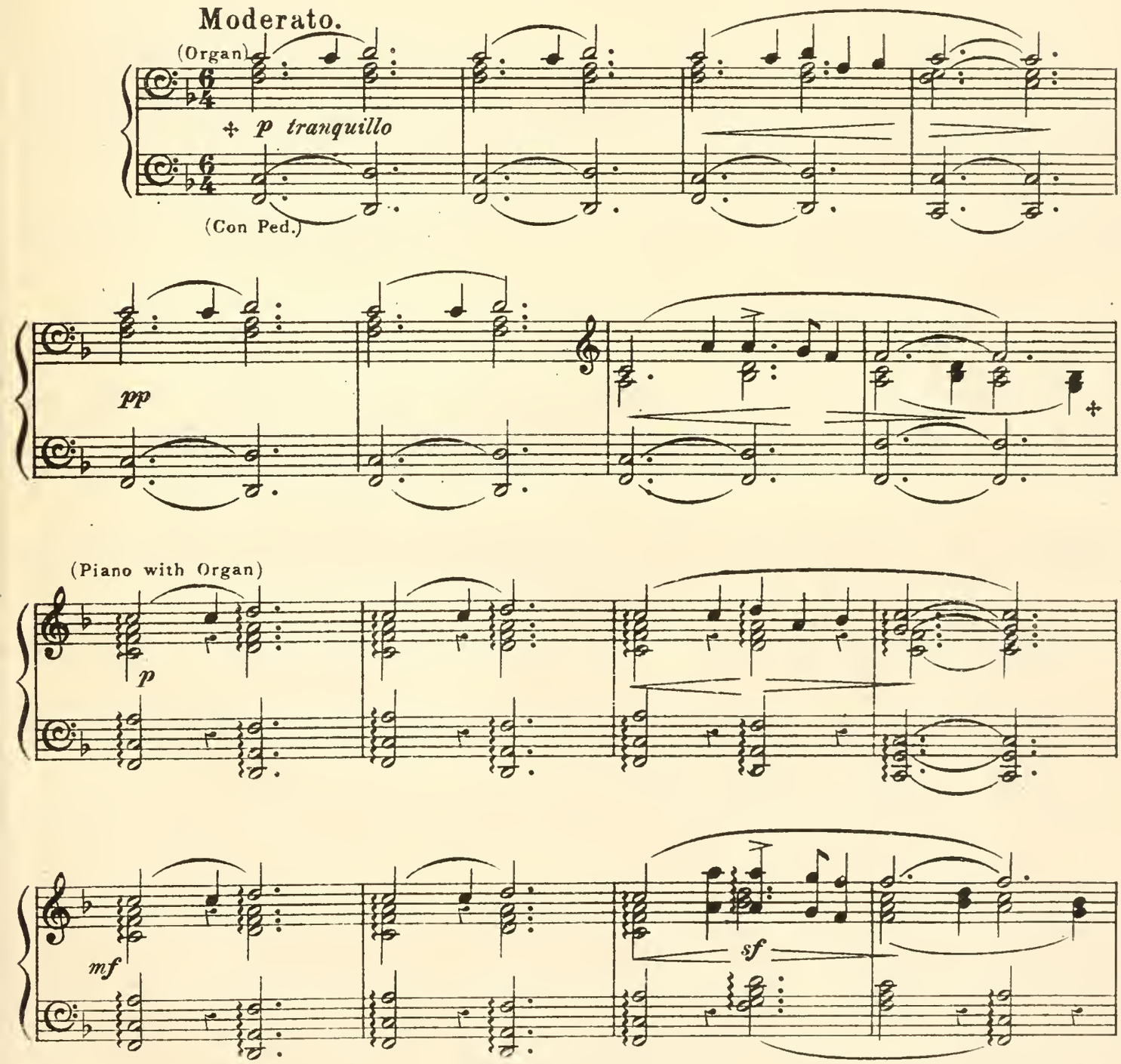
The Holy Night.

And Now Beginneth the Masque to Play.

When the curtain shall be drawn, the Stage appeareth so and so: To the one side there may be the gable end of a little shed. This hath a door that shall open down its mid length when the time appointed is come. Above, on the gable, sitteth an ANGEL; *wherefore this framework needs be stout builded. To the one side and the other of the door* Angels *stand likewise. All these three have a face as of one that waiteth, thinking his own thoughts; neither are they observed of the* Shepherds *nor of the* Beasts. *In that side of the shed most near the front of the stage shall be a little window, and the* Ox *and the* Ass *look forth. Over against this shed a little mound riseth up—and mayhap it is made of sand—and on this the* COCK *is perched, who anon doth rake with his toes in the sand, anon he pecketh at the* RAVEN, *which walketh sedate about the heap of sand, or resteth still with his head covered underneath his wing in the seemly fashion of his kind. But ere long he must walk again. Now mid-way betwixt this little shed and this mound, and in the front of the stage, the* Shepherds *lie on the ground, and their* LAMB *with them.*

But first let this Musick be heard:—

Introduction.



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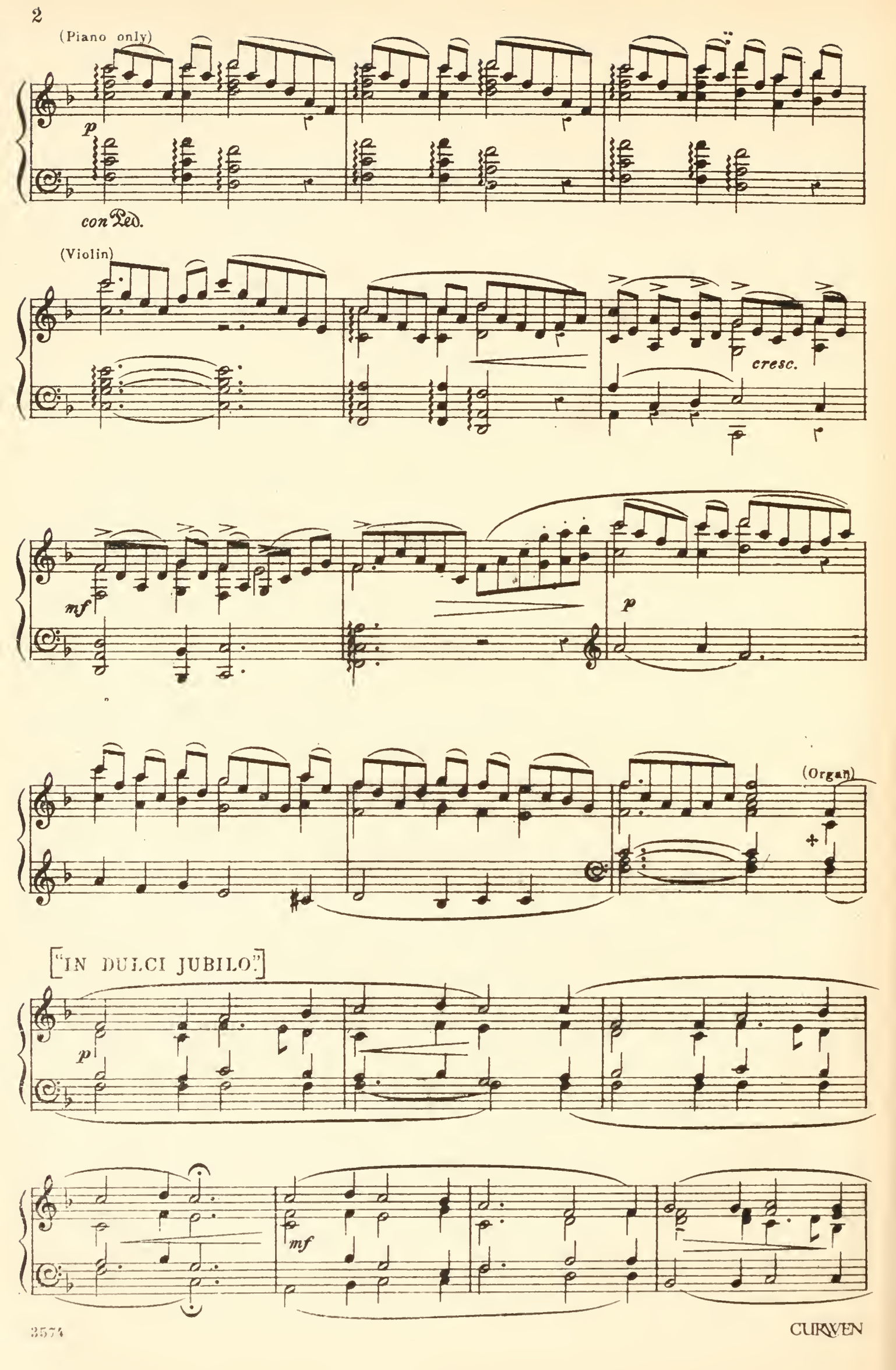
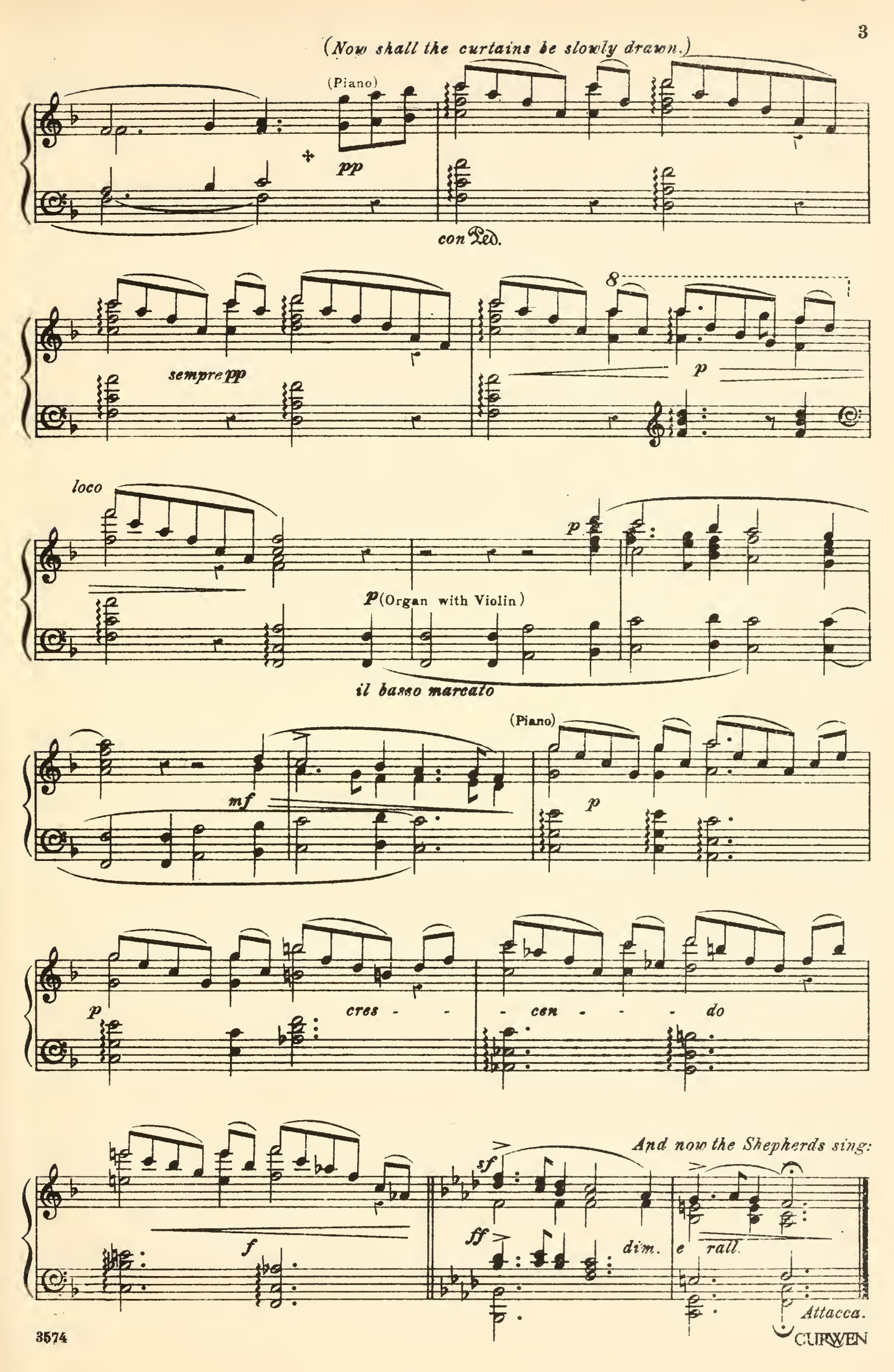
Note: The parts of the piano accompaniment marked thus + - - + should be omitted when an organ is available.


(Piano only)
p
con Ped.
(Violin)
cresc.
mf
p
(Organ)
["IN DULCI JUBILO."]
p
mf


(Now shall the curtains be slowly drawn.)
(Piano)
pp
con Ped.
sempre pp
8
p
loco
p
p (Organ with Violin)
il basso marcato
(Piano)
mf
p
p
cres - - - cen - - - do
f
sf
ff
dim.
e rall.
And now the Shepherds sing:
Attacca.

CURWEN

The Shepherds' Song.

[Air: "O FILII ET FILIAE"]

Moderato. ♩ = 80.

THREE SHEPHERDS. (*unaccompanied.*)

1. King Dav - id was a Shep-herd lad, A rud - dy coun - ten - ance he had, He harped for Saul when Saul was sad.

Al - le - lu - - ia!

(Piano)

mf

2. He slew the li - on and the bear; No hun - gry beast hence - forth may dare Draw

nigh the flock in Dav - id's care. Al - le - lu - -

rall. Solo. *p* a tempo.

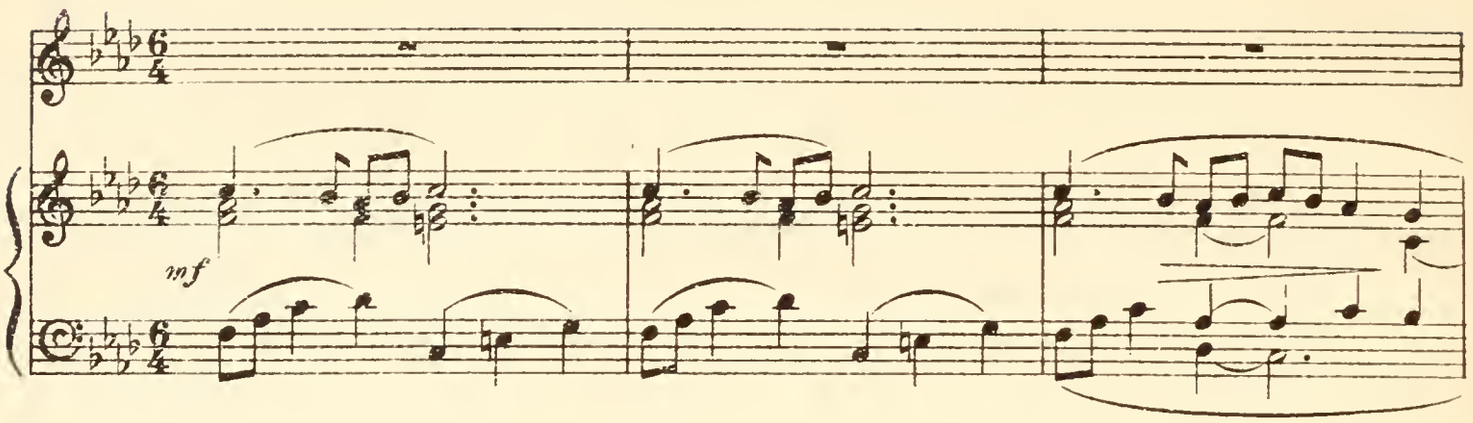
ia! 3. A Shep - herd reign'd in

ff *pp* a tempo.

Is - ra - el, A Shep - herd reign'd, our fa - thers tell, A

cresc.

Shep - herd reign'd, and all was well. Al - le - lu - - ia!



Più lento. *f* THREE SHEPHERDS.

4. King Dav - id's great - er Son shall reign, Shall

(Organ)

f

rit.

reign and tri - umph yet a-gain, And lead the na - tions in His train.

a tempo.

p

Al - le - lu - ia!

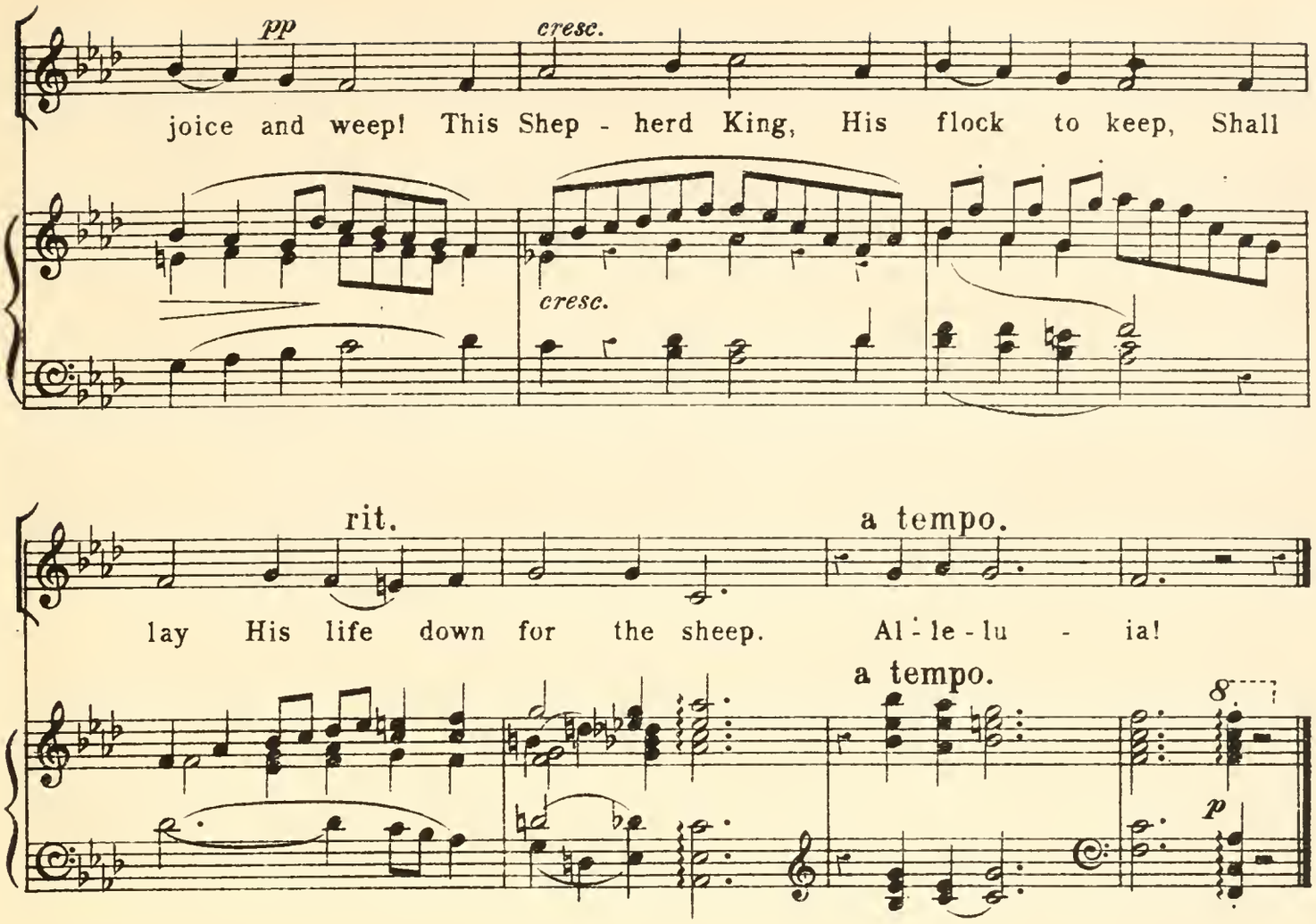
5. O Shep - herds now re -

(Piano with Violin.)

a tempo.

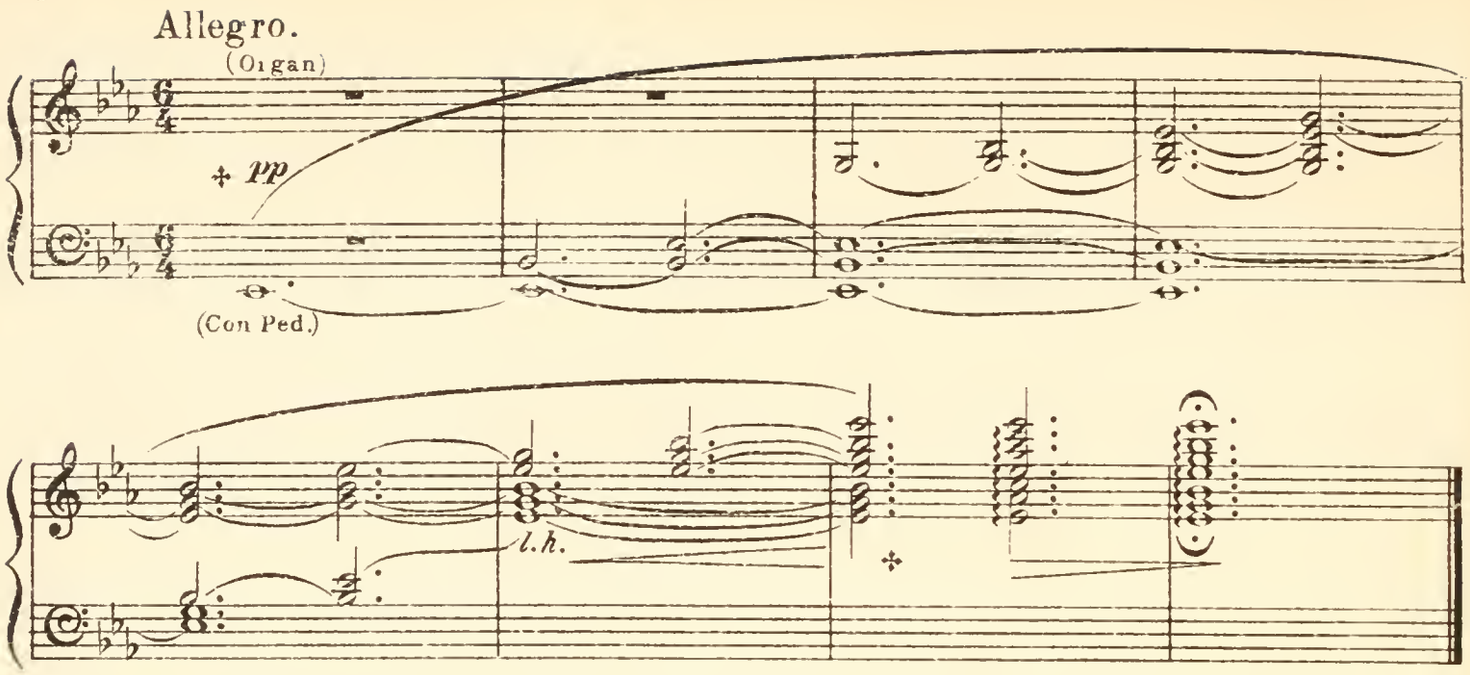
ff

p



THE COCK (*he flappeth his wings and crieth*).—Cock-a-doodle-doo! Cock-a-doodle-doo!
THE OX (*he noddeth his head*).—Ooooee! Ooooee!
THE RAVEN (*he spreadeth his two broad wings*).—Cawn! Cawn!
FIRST SHEPHERD.—What a clatter do these beasts make!
THE ASS (*he waggeth one ear and the other alternate*).—Haw Hay! Haw Hay!
THE LAMB (*he maketh his little tail to frisk*).—Ba-a-a!
SECOND SHEPHERD.—And thou too, silly one! Go to sleep!
THIRD SHEPHERD.—My Grandam saith that one day the beasts shall speak.
SECOND SHEPHERD.—When?
THIRD SHEPHERD.—'Tis but a tale of my Grandam.
FIRST SHEPHERD.—Tell it!
SECOND SHEPHERD.—Yea; tell it! The night is long.
THE ASS.—Haw Hay! Haw Hay!
THIRD SHEPHERD.—My Grandam saith, that night Messias is born all the beasts shall speak. 'Twas a wise woman told her.
SECOND SHEPHERD.—When think you Messias shall be born?
FIRST SHEPHERD.—Not in our time, I trow. Shall not hap in our time but these heavy taxings.
SECOND SHEPHERD.—Grumble not—'tis a good year with the sheep.
THE LAMB.—Ba-a-a!
THE THREE ANGELS (*they put the finger to the lip and say*).—Hush-sh!
THIRD SHEPHERD (*he speaketh soft*).—Heard you not a voice? What was't?
THE THREE ANGELS.—Hush-sh!

(*And for a full minute shall not be any sound in that place. Only the* STAR OF BETHLEHEM *shall rise, being drawn up on a thread, till it hang above the gable of the little shed.*



(*Then shall the* Cock *flap his wings and cry in a mighty voice*) :—

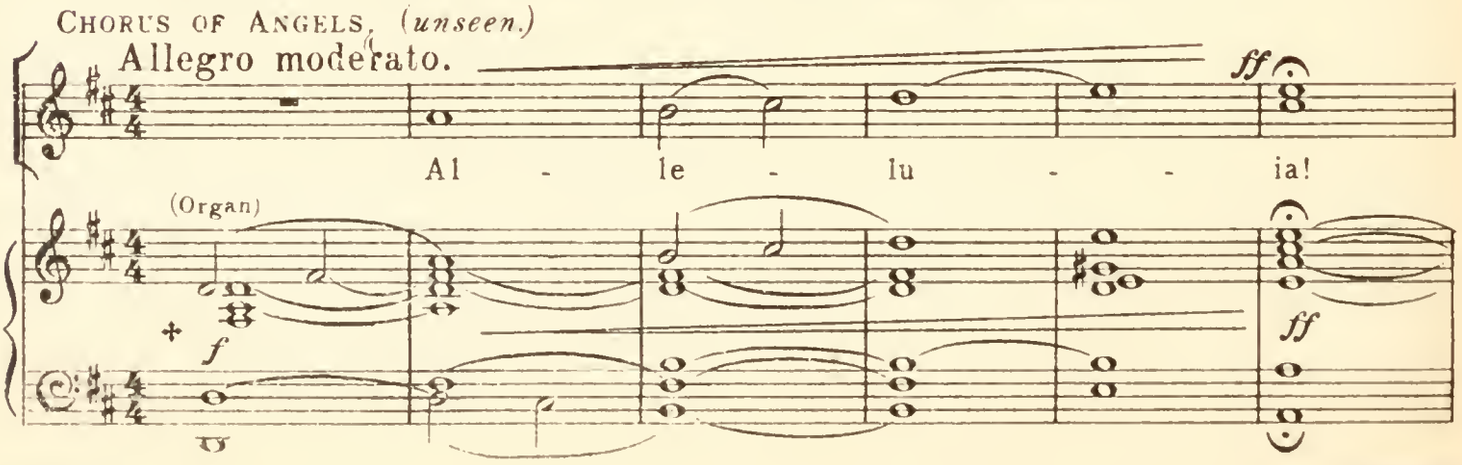
The Cock.—Christus natus est! Christ is born!
Second Shepherd.—Hark you! the bird spake!
First Shepherd.—And in the Roman tongue.

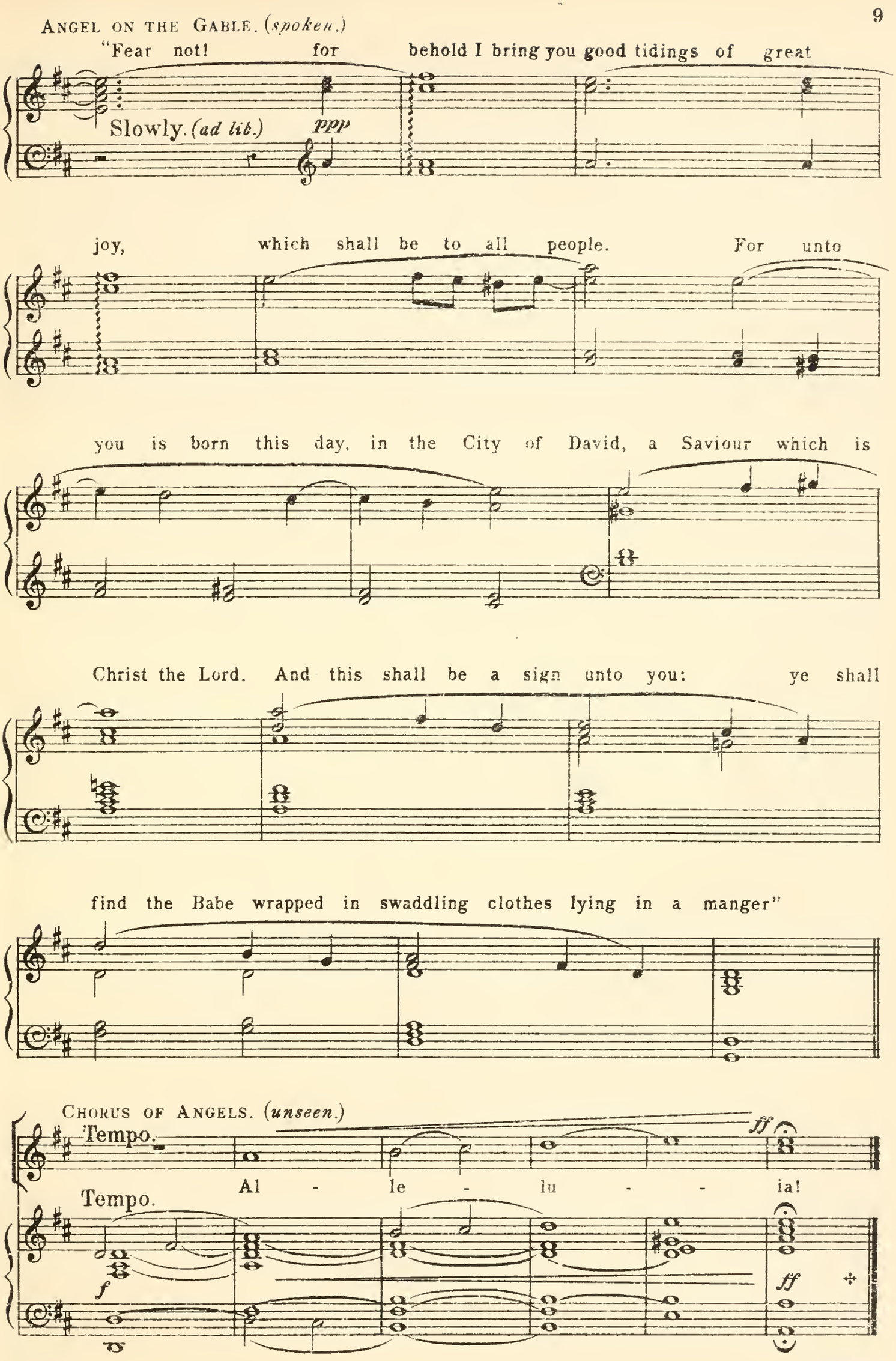
(*Then these* Shepherds *sit as lost in a maze.*)

The Cock.—Christus natus est! Christ is born!
The Raven (*he stretcheth his wings*).—Quando? When?
Third Shepherd.—But these be learned fowl!
The Raven (*as he were impatient*).—Quando? When?
The Ass (*he twirleth one of his ears*).—Hac nocte! This night!
Second Shepherd (*he whispereth as it were fearfully to his brethren*).—Didst hear the Ass said, Messias is born to-night?
First Shepherd.—How shall an Ass know?
The Cock.—Christus natus est! Christ is born!
The Raven.—Quando? When?
The Ass.—Hac nocte! This night!
The Ox (*he noddeth his head and speaketh slow*).—Ubi? Where?
Third Shepherd.—Yea; where?
The Lamb.—Be-e-e-e-th-le-hem! Be-e-e-e-th-le-hem!
Second Shepherd.—Nay; I'll not believe that!
The Cock.—Christus natus est! Christ is born!
The Raven.—Quando? When?
The Ass.—Hac nocte! This night!
The Ox.—Ubi? Where?
The Lamb.—Be-e-e-e-th-le-hem! Be-e-e-e-th-le-hem!
The Three Angels.—Alleluia!

(*And there is a sound as of many voices of* Angels *which sing unseen*:)

Chorus of Angels, (*unseen.*)




ANGEL ON THE GABLE. (spoken.)
"Fear not! for behold I bring you good tidings of great
Slowly. (ad lib.)
ppp
joy, which shall be to all people. For unto
you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour which is
Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall
find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger"
CHORUS OF ANGELS. (unseen.)
Tempo.
ff
Al - le - lu - - ia!
Tempo.
f
ff

*(Now immediately are the heavens opened**, *which by-meaneth that there hath been around the back and sides of this stage, some two feet separate from the wall, a dark curtain, and, this being withdrawn, there are disclosed* Angels, *as many as may be, which stand in a long row a four foot space from the floor, on a narrow scaffold builded close by the wall. The* Angels *be garmented like to the three, but they stand close one after one; their hands be laid crosswise on their breasts and their wings do rise up in points folded above their heads. And from henceforth while this* Masque *dureth the* Angels *shall stand here, and it is their part to sing "* Alleluia! *" But first do they chaunt, immediately the curtain is withdrawn.)*

* *During which is played:–* [OLD CAROL TUNE.] (Violin added)

Tempo I.

(Piano)

p

rall.

f

CHORUS OF ANGELS. (*unaccompanied.*)

mf Tempo ad lib.

"Glo - ry to God in the High-est, and on earth peace, good-will to men.

ff

The peo - ple that walked in dark - ness have seen a great light:

they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light

a tempo.

shined."

(Organ)

p

Tempo ad lib.

f

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:

ff

and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His Name shall be called –

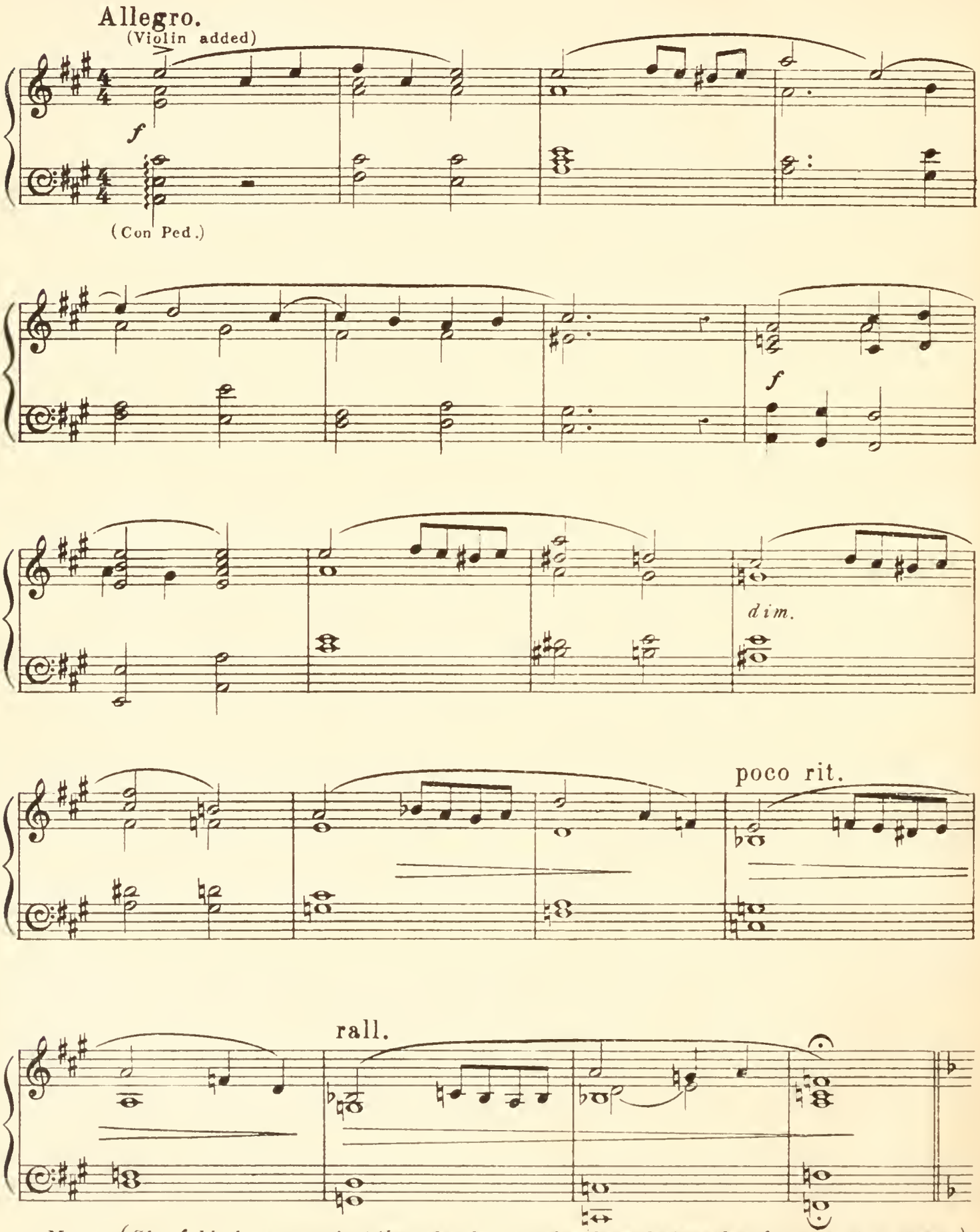
ff

Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

(Piano with Organ)

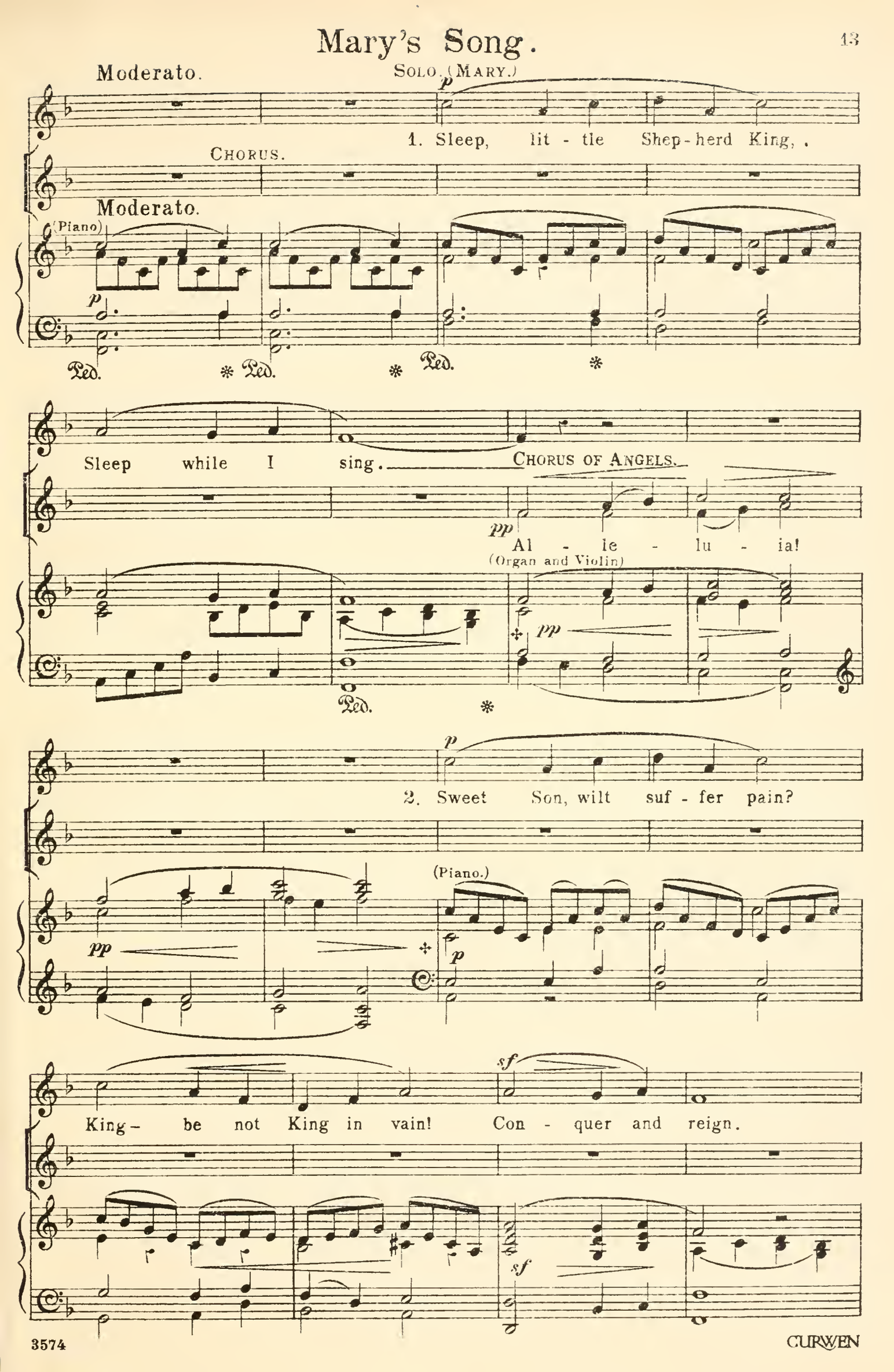
ff

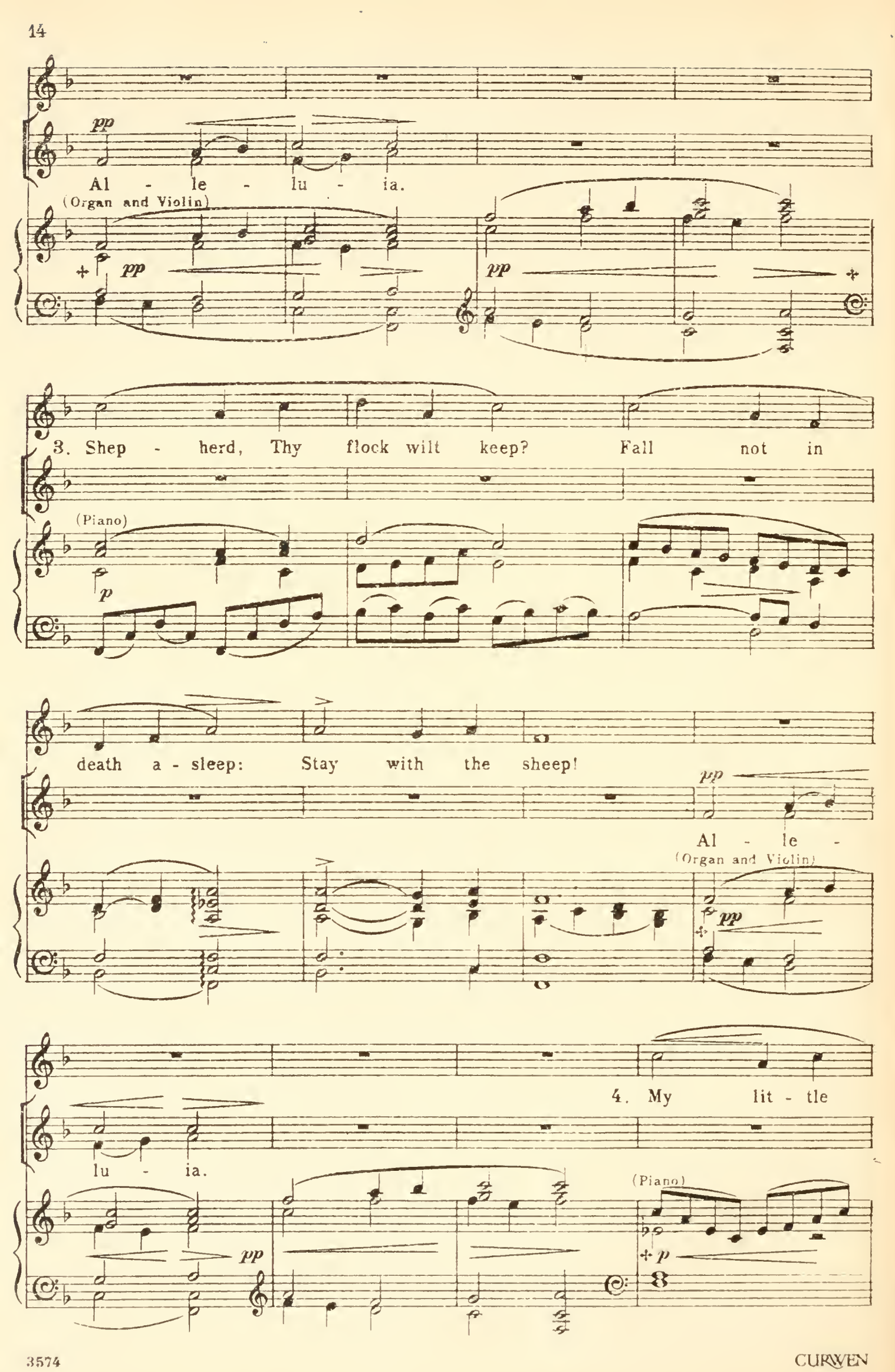
(*Now when the* Heavenly Host *hath chaunted after this fashion, the two* Angels *beside the door of the little shed do fold back the leaves of the door. And within are seen* MARY *and* JOSEPH, *sitting, and betwixt them two the* HOLY CHILD *lieth on a tuft of straw in a little box which shall be called the Manger.*)



MARY. (*She foldeth one against the other her two hands and singeth soft to the Holy Child.*)

Mary's Song.


Moderato.
Solo. (Mary.)
p
1. Sleep, lit - tle Shep - herd King,
Chorus.
Moderato.
(Piano)
p
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
Sleep while I sing.
Chorus of Angels.
pp
Al - le - lu - ia!
(Organ and Violin)
pp
Ped. *
p
2. Sweet Son, wilt suf - fer pain?
(Piano.)
pp
p
sf
King - be not King in vain! Con - quer and reign.
sf


pp
Al - le - lu - ia.
(Organ and Violin)
pp
pp
3. Shep - herd, Thy flock wilt keep? Fall not in
(Piano)
p
death a - sleep: Stay with the sheep!
pp
Al - le -
(Organ and Violin)
pp
4. My lit - tle
lu - ia.
pp
(Piano)
p

poco rit. rall. a tempo.

Lamb! my Son! My lit - tle hu - man One, Thy will be done.

pp

Al - le -

poco rit. rall. a tempo.

pp p Organ & Vln.

Slower.

pp

5. Sleep, lit - tle Shepherd King,

lu - ia.

Slower.
(Piano)

pp pp

rall. a tempo. rall.

Sleep while I sing.

pp p pp

rall. a tempo. rall.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Organ & Vln. pp p pp

(*The* Shepherds *draw anear. They kneel one after one, in a straight row.*)

FIRST SHEPHERD.—Is this Messias?

MARY.—Yea.

THIRD SHEPHERD (*he peereth over his brother's shoulder*) —Born in a stable?

SECOND SHEPHERD.—'Tis a shepherd, bethink thee. I have slept in a stable full oft; yet many a time had I not even a shed to cover me. I have slept 'neath the open sky.

FIRST SHEPHERD.—And I too.

THIRD SHEPHERD.—And I.

SECOND SHEPHERD.—If this be King, must He not be worshipped?

MARY.—Yea; come nigh! See, He is a very child.

(*They come yet more close to the door.*)

ANGELS.

Allegro.

Al - le - lu - - ia!

(Organ)

(*Now the* THREE WISE MEN *do enter.* MELCHIOR *is the first. After him cometh* CASPAR, *and* BALTHASAR *is the last.*)

(Piano with Organ and Violin)

rall.

MELCHIOR.— What may this place be?
THE LAMB.— Be-e-e-e-th-le-hem!

ANGELS.

Al - le - lu - - ia!.

(Organ)

BALTHASAR.—" Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him."

THE COCK.— Christus natus est! Christ is born!

THE SHEPHERDS (*they stand aside out of the door*).—This is He—this Babe. Come and worship!

THE THREE WISE MEN (*they sing that old hymn,* "We Three Kings of Orient are," *as followeth*)—

The Wise Men's Song.

[OLD CAROL.]

Quickly

THREE WISE MEN.(CHORUS.)

1. We three Kings of O-ri-ent are;

(Piano.)

(Piano and Violin)

Bear - ing gifts we traverse a - far Field and foun - tain,

moor and moun - tain, Fol - lowing yon - der star.

SOLO. (2) MELCHIOR. (3) CASPAR. (4) BELTHASAR.

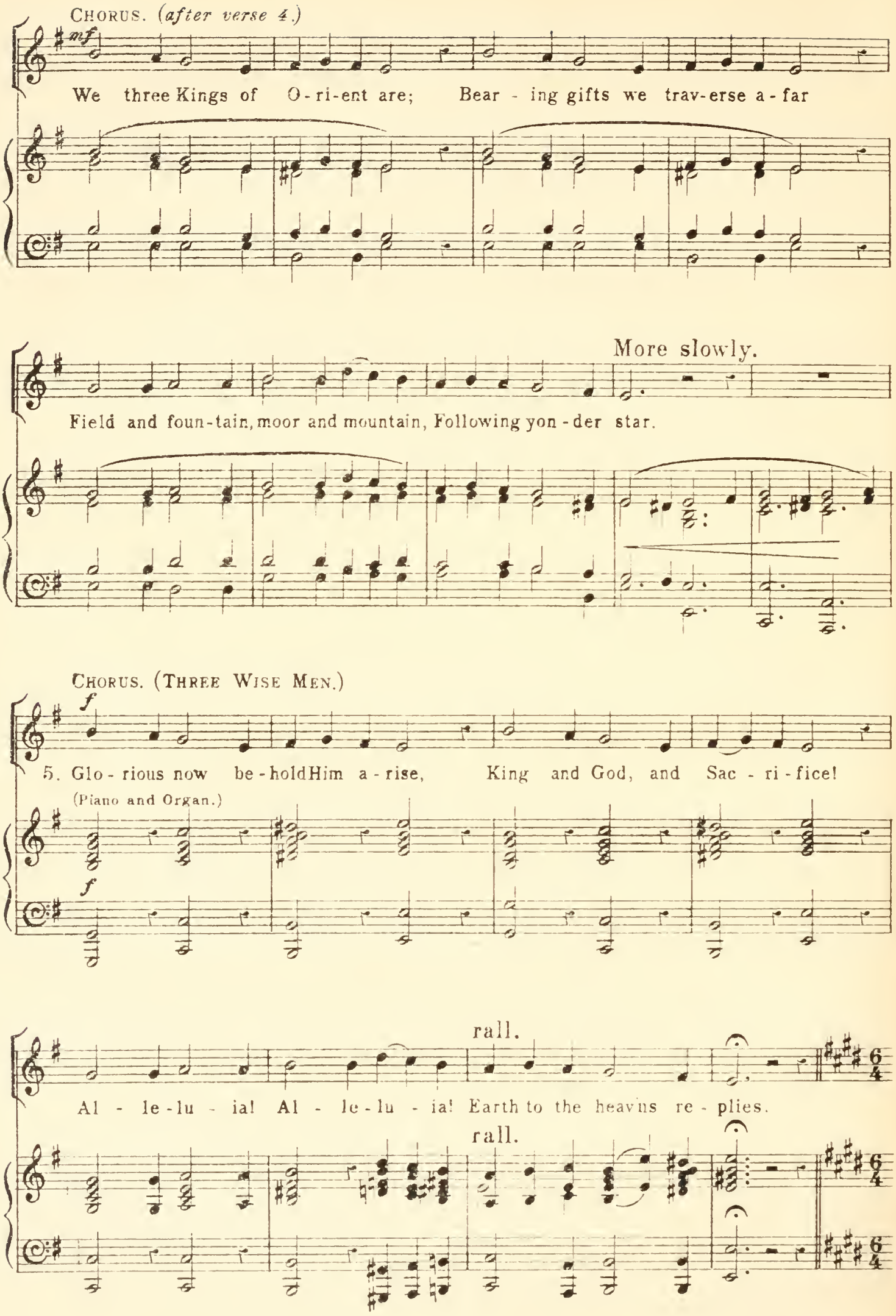
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:

(Piano.)

Repeat Chorus.

King for ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, Ov - er us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Worship Him, God most high.
Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.

f


CHORUS. (after verse 4.)
mf
We three Kings of O-ri-ent are; Bear - ing gifts we trav-erse a-far
More slowly.
Field and foun-tain, moor and mountain, Following yon-der star.
CHORUS. (THREE WISE MEN.)
f
5. Glo-rious now be-hold Him a-rise, King and God, and Sac-ri-fice!
(Piano and Organ.)
f
rall.
Al - le-lu - ia! Al - le-lu - ia! Earth to the heavns re-plies.
rall.

(Now do the WISE MEN *give their gifts.)*

(The first, MELCHIOR, *presents gold.)*

Più lento.

rall. e cresc.

(Piano with Organ and Violin)

pp

il basso marcato

Maestoso.

ff (Piano and Organ)

(Organ and Violin)

p

(The second, CASPAR, *offers incense.)*

pp

(Piano & Organ) *p*

rit. - - Tempo.

(Organ and Violin)

p

(The third, BELTHASAR, *gives myrrh.)* (Violin)

sf

p (Piano and Organ)

p

rall.

pp

(Organ and Violin)

(*Then they do kneel and* MARY *taketh the gifts and layeth them in the manger beside the* HOLY CHILD.).

THE SHEPHERDS.—Why may we not give gifts?

CASPAR.—Yea, do so!

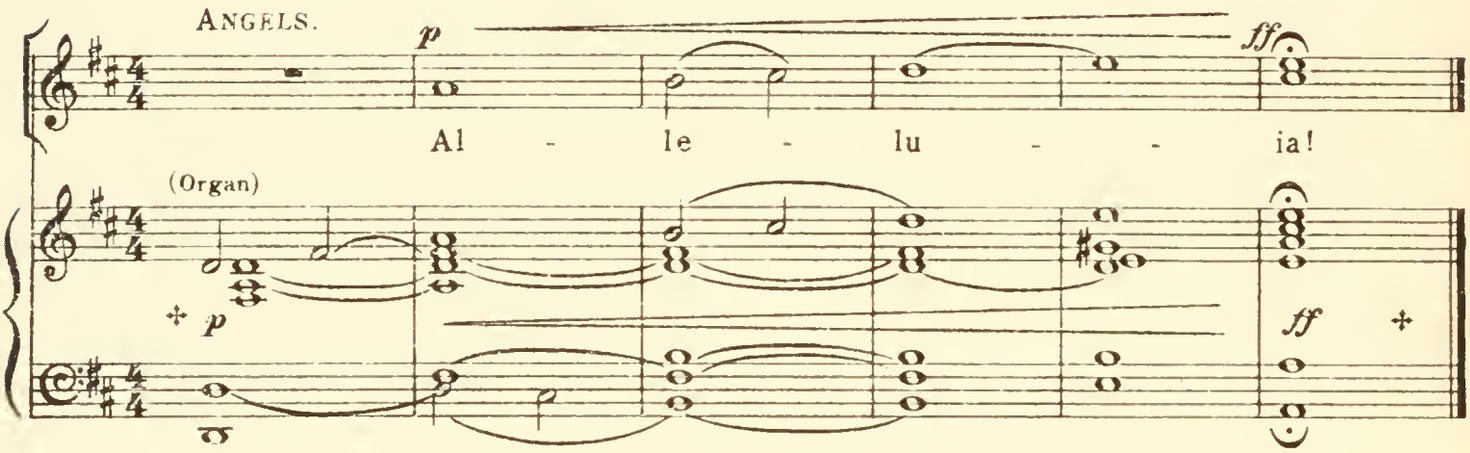
SECOND SHEPHERD.—What have we, poor shepherds? Nothing!

FIRST SHEPHERD.—I have a little ball; Babe likes a ball.

THIRD SHEPHERD.—Here have I a bob o' cherries, red cherries. Would Babe laugh to see the red?

SECOND SHEPHERD.—This lamb is my little lamb, wilt have him for thy little Lamb Mother? Two lambs, snow white?

(*Now do the* Shepherds *give these gifts.*)



THE ANGEL ON THE GABLE.—Joseph!

JOSEPH (*he cometh out of the door and looketh up*).—Here am I.

THE ANGEL ON THE GABLE.—"Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him."

JOSEPH.—Well, I must saddle the ass; we go away.

THE ASS (*he speaketh in surprise and some discontent*).—Hac nocte? This night?

JOSEPH.—Yea; it must be. We go away.

THE OX.—Ubi? Where?

JOSEPH.—Into Egypt, the Angel said.

MARY.—But He shall come again to dwell in Nazareth.

THE RAVEN.—Quando? When?

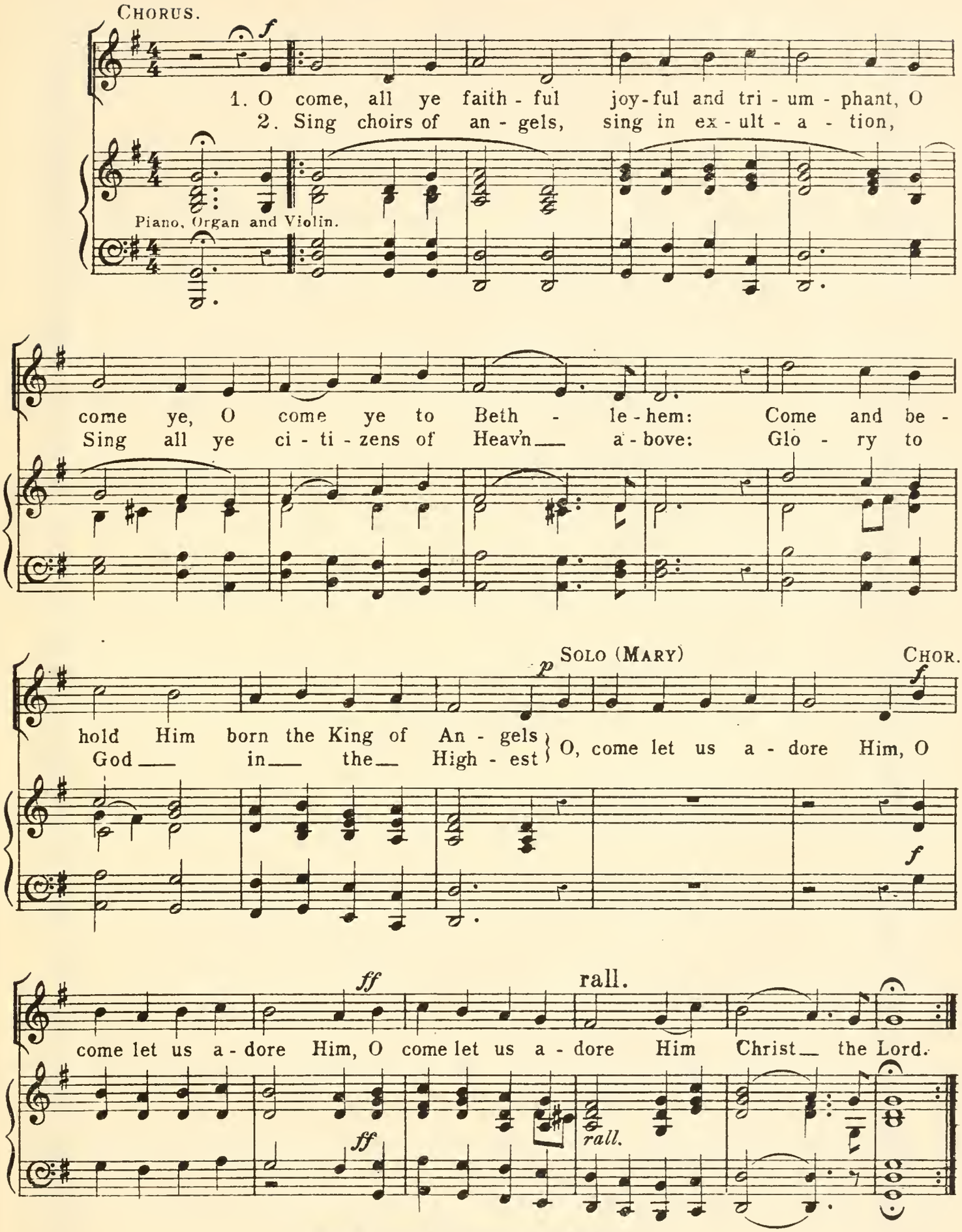
MARY.—That shall be when the Lord willeth.

THE COCK.—Christus natus est! Christ is born!

(*Now doth* MARY *arise.* JOSEPH *hath his hand on the head of the* ASS. *On the one side of the door there stand an* ANGEL *and the* Three Shepherds, *on the other side of the door an* ANGEL *and the* THREE WISE MEN.

The COCK *standeth still upon his mound, the* RAVEN *is below. Then do all the* Angels, *the* Shepherds, *the* Wise Men, *the* COCK, *the* RAVEN, *the* LAMB, *the* OX, *the* ASS, MARY, JOSEPH, *and all they that do sit in Audience to hear this Masque, sing with a loud voice and right joyfully, the first stanza and the third of the hymn called "Adeste Fideles."*)

Adeste Fideles.



And this is the end of the Masque.

Mark these things—

If there be any child that knoweth no Latin, he is to be told that Christus natus est *signifieth* Christ is born, Quando *signifieth* When, Hac nocte *signifieth* this night, Ubi *signifieth* Where.

365 9 30